

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5245

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, SY, KU

SUBJ: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS KUWAITI PRESS

1. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KADDAN VISITED KUWAIT APRIL 28 ON WHIRL-WIND TOUR OF GULF STATES CARRYING MESSAGE FOR AMIR FROM ASSAD REPORTEDLY OUTLINING SYRIAN VIEWS ON LEBANON. IN PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE KADDAN CRITICIZED JUMBLATT, SAID SYRIA WON'T PERMIT PARTITION OF LEBANON, INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO CONFEDERATION WITH JORDAN AND MAINTAINED THAT IRAQI STOPPAGE OF OIL NOT YET HARMFUL TO SYRIA. HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOW.

2. ASKED FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THE KIND OF PRESIDENT WHO WILL SUCCEED FRANJIEH, MINISTER SAID "BEFORE TALKING ABOUT THE NEXT PRESIDENT WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THE CONSPIRACY GOING ON IN LEBANON AIMED AT DISINTEGRATING THE ARAB ISSUE, THE PALESTINE ISSUE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNITY OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE. THIS CONSPIRACY AIMS AT HITTING

THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ON THE WAY TO DESTROYING THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND DIVIDING LEBANON IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ZIONIST AND IMPERIALIST SCHEMES. HENCE, WE MUST COPE WITH THIS MALICIOUS CONSPIRACY BY EXERTING EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO STOP THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON".

3. ASKED WHETHER SYRIA HAS A CERTAIN POSITION TOWARD THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, KADDAM SAID "I SEE THAT YOU ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS THAN THE LEBANESE PEOPLE. IN FACT, WE HAVE TO CONCENTRATE MORE ON THE CONSPIRACY CONCOCTED IN LEBANON BECAUSE IT CONCERNS US MORE THAN THE ELECTIONS. IF UNITY IS UNDERMINED AND LEBANON IS DIVIDED, THE RESULTS WILL BE FAR MORE DANGEROUS".

4. WHEN TOLD THAT SYRIA IS CHARGED WITH SUPPORTING BOTH PARTIES IN LEBANON, MUSLEMS AND CHRISTIANS, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID "OUR REPLY IS CLEAR AND FRANK. WE ARE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. HITTING THE RESISTANCE IS THE FIRST AIM OF THE CONSPIRACY. YOU KNOW THAT WHEN WE FELT THAT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE WAS FACING GREAT PRESSURE, SYRIA DIRECTLY TOOK A HISTORICAL DECISION TO ENTER THE WAR TO PROTECT THE RESISTANCE AND RESTORE THE MILITARY BALANCE. WE IN SYRIA HAVE TWO PRINCIPLE ISSUES CLOSELY LINKED TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY; THE SAFETY AND EXISTENCE OF THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND THE UNITY OF LEBANON. IF WE FEEL AT ANY TIME THAT THE PALESTINE RESISTANCE IS THREATENED, WE WILL PROTECT IT AND, IF WE FEEL THAT THE LEBANESE UNITY IS THE TARGET OF THE CONSPIRACY, WE WILL ALSO PROTECT IT. ON MY LAST TRIP TO KUWAIT I WAS ASKED ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF PARTITION. I MADE A CLEAR STATEMENT. IF PARTITION IS CALLED FOR BY ANY PARTY, WE WILL CERTAINLY OPPOSE THIS PARTY WHATEVER ITS SOLGANS".

5. ASKED IF JUMBLATT IS SUPPORTED BY ANY FACTION IN HIS CALL FOR PARTITION, KHADDAM SAID "WE WANT TO SEE WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN THE PARTITION OF LEBANON. HE WHO HAS IS THE ONE BACKING JUMBLATT. SETTING UP NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OR LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE ISLAMIC AREAS MEANS CONSOLIDATING PARTING PARTITION AS IN THE CASE OF CYPRUS. IN MY OPINION, THE ONE WHO HAS INTEREST IN PARTITION REPRESENTS ZIONISM AND WORLD IMPERIALISM".

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6. ASKED WHETHER HE BELIEVES THAT DECLARATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION BY JUMBLATT IS REPLY TO FORMATION OF "SHADOW-GOVERNMENT" BY PHALANGISTS, MINISTER SAID "IF THE OTHER FACTION ACTED WRONGLY WILL IT BE RIGHT TO REACT IN THE SAME WAY? WE SAID THAT FIGHTING IS A CONSPIRACY, SO WILL UNDERMINING THE CONSPIRACY COME ABOUT BY ESCALATING THE FIGHTING? JUMBLATT WAS SUPPOSED TO DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, BUT HE INSTEAD STOOD WATCHING. WHEN THE RESISTANCE BECAME STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEND ITSELF,

HE MOVED TO ENSURE CONTINUATION OF THE CONSPIRACY".

7. COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT MOSHIN OF SAIQA WILL REPLACE ARAFAT WITH SUPPORT FROM SYRIA AND WHEN ASKED WHETHER THERE IS DIFFERENCE IN VIEWS BETWEEN ARAFAT AND SYRIAN OFFICIALS, KADDAM ASSERTED THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ARE STRATEGIC AND ABOVE SUSPICIONS. WE HAVE TURNED DOWN AN AMERICAN OFFER TO SECURE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GOLAN HIGHTS WITHOUT ANY NEGOTIATIONS, AS WE CONSIDERED THE PRICE FOR THAT OFFER WOULD BE DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN US AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. THE AFFILIATION BETWEEN US IS ABOVE ALL TERRITORIES AND WE WILL NEVER CEASE SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIANS. YASSER ARAFAT IS THE LEADER OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AND HE HAS ALL SUPPORT ANDBACKING FROM SYRIA AND ITS LEADERS".

8. WHEN QUERIED ON THE REASONS FOR SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO ARABIZATION OF LEBANESE PROBLEM, KADDAM SAID THAT THE SYRIANS DO NOT OPPOSE IT. "THE ARABS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISCUSS ANY ARAB PROBLEM, BUT THE PRESENT ARAB SITUATION WILL ALL THE INTER ARAB FEUDS AND CONFLICTS WILL NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT RATHER COMPLICATE IT FURTHER." ON AN ARAB SUMMIT, HE SAID "WE DO NOT OBJECT TO ITS CONVENING NOT ONLY TO DISCUSS THE LEBANESE PROBLEM, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE WHOLE ARAB NATION".

9. KHADDAM CLAIMED THAT THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANY DISCUSSION OF RENEWAL OF THE UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN THE GOLAN. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE HALT IN PUMPING IRAQI OIL TO SYRIA, HE OBSERVED THAT "ALTHOUGH OIL HAS BEEN STOPPED, LIFE HAS NOT CEASED". ON CONFEDERATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND JORDAN, KHADDAM SAID HE HAS "NOT HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT" BUT AFFIRMED THAT THERE IS "MASSIVE COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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